Charlotte County if water and sewer rates on Feb. 12. She said she this at a public hearing on new water Chauve, who was one of many to suggest rate increases. They cent rate increases that would have "I'm more of a piggy bank," said Roger of the Punta Gorda Airport. Coppola, who is also a commis- sioner for the Punta Gorda Airport. "You act as if we were a bot- tomless piggy bank," said Roger saying of the breakouts that made him a folk hero in his native country. MEXICAN DRUG LORD 'EL CHAPO' FOUND GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS Wednesday, February 13, 2019 AMERICA'S BEST COMMUNITY DAILY Vol. 127 | Issue No. 44 www.yoursun.com FROM CHARLOTTE COUNTY www.yoursun.com | Tue, 13 Feb 2019 | EDITION 10 05:25:20 00:02:58 00:00:11 www.yoursun.com | Tue, 13 Feb 2019 | EDITION 10 05:25:20 00:02:58 00:00:11
Gas prices are starting to recover after an overnight jump two weeks ago.

What happened?

Source: Petroleum Marketer, regular gas prices rose from $2.138 on Jan. 28 to $2.212 the next day. Prices reached a peak Jan. 31 at $2.281.

How much did they recover?

Gas prices in Punta Gorda averaged at $2.195 Tuesday, dropping from the Jan. 31 peak.

Why did it take so long?

“There’s a common refrain in the fuel industry,” a peak Jan. 31 at $2.281. the next day. Prices reached

What was it like last year?

Local gas prices are 25 cents less than the same time last year.

How does Florida compare to other states?

Florida ranks as the 23rd state in terms of local gas prices among the 50 states, meaning gas prices relatively low, so far this year.”

AAA forecasts the national average to peak around $2.75 per gallon by Memorial Day weekend. Last year, Memorial Day weekend national gas prices stood at $2.91, and Florida prices stood at $2.89.

What’s happening with crude?

Crude oil prices settled at $52.64 a barrel Friday, dropping by $2.62 after week. This is the first decline in crude oil prices in two months.

“What we’re doing to help gas prices recover after an overnight jump two weeks ago is a peak Jan. 31 at $2.281. the next day. Prices reached

What’s in store for the future?

Prices should bounce higher in the spring, Jenkins said, due to a rising demand and refineries switching to the summer-blend gasoline, which is more expensive to produce.

AAA forecasts the national average to peak around $2.75 per gallon by Memorial Day weekend. Last year, Memorial Day weekend national gas prices stood at $2.91, and Florida prices stood at $2.89.

As of Jan. 16:

Retailers purchase gas “just like we do. At last, a much larger quantity,” Jenkins said. It’s a smaller purchase of a load of fuel and prices drop that follow, the next day. They’ll lose money if they buy more gas before their next shipment.

“Planners and retailers have to do it the hard way, if they’re trying to compete with a retailer across the street who has lower prices.”

What’s the outlook for crude?

Crude oil prices are often more expensive than surrounding states, Jenkins said, mainly due to a more expensive gas tax and a different method of collecting gasoline.

“Shoppers continue to find gas prices that are well below what they paid this time last year,” said Jenkins, speaking for AAA. “’Tax oil prices have helped keep gas prices relatively low, so far this year.”

What are we more expensive for?

Florida gas prices are often more expensive than surrounding states, Jenkins said, mainly due to a more expensive gas tax and a different method of collecting gasoline.

“Shoppers continue to find gas prices that are well below what they paid this time last year,” said Jenkins, speaking for AAA. “’Tax oil prices have helped keep gas prices relatively low, so far this year.”

What’s the outlook for vacation travel?

How does Florida tourism impact gas prices?

Florida tourism impacts gas prices when tourists are coming into the state. Jenkins said, due to a rising demand and refineries switching to the summer-blend gasoline, which is more expensive to produce.

AAA forecasts the national average to peak around $2.75 per gallon by Memorial Day weekend. Last year, Memorial Day weekend national gas prices stood at $2.91, and Florida prices stood at $2.89.

What’s the outlook for the summer?

Lower gas prices this year means Florida travelers will be able to afford more gas for their summer vacations.

Gas prices rise like a rocket and fall like a feather.”

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Another view of Jamestown history

This message is in response to “Digging deep into American history.” This article is a gross violation of journalistic integrity. You didn’t read it, it claims that African slaves were brought to the survival of the Jamestown settlement. The article said that before the slaves arrived, Jamestown “wasn’t” starving. I guarantee you, Jamestown touched out to England for reinforcement. They know how to starve.

However unacceptable having slaves is today, that is exactly why those Africans were brought to America, not to “reach” the rest of us to a common level of potential, to the garden but do not actually fill those schools over sales taxes that pay for the new recreation center you use in Englewood. It’s stressful, yes. The one another. We should appreciate actual rudeness.

I believe in continuing my membership now only gives us more entry to the otters, fish, sharks, etc. The Mote has been created since Trump was 304,000 jobs in January and over sales taxes that pay for the new recreation center you use in Englewood. It’s stressful, yes. The one another. We should appreciate actual rudeness.

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Ben Bailey named building official of the year

The Punta Gorda City Council has approved theInitial Assessment Resolution for Buckleys Pass. The resolution is a capital assessment to be levied against the property owners after a public hearing on April 3 to consider the assessment resolution and any other business.

The initial assessment will be based on water access and not on the parcel area. The assessment is to be levied against the property owners and will be subject to a capital assessment. The assessment will be based on water access and not on the parcel area.

The decision was made to increase the assessment to cover the cost of the infrastructure and to provide a fair and equitable assessment for all property owners. The assessment will be based on water access and not on the parcel area.

Ben Bailey was named building official of the year. He was selected as building official of the year by the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BACAI). The award recognizes his dedication to protecting the lives, safety, health and property of the community.

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**IN THE NEWS**

**COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS**

**Paddle with your valentine**

Paddle the Loxos Creek Preserve from 3 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 14. The New Port Richey Master Naturalist Rick Fried will give a 90-minute tour that includes a brief history of the area, flora and fauna, and safety tips. Check the reserve for a list of appropriate footwear. Check the weather for a decision on canceling. Space is limited. To reserve, call 727-842-7044.

**Paddle the Lower Peace River**

Paddle with Florida Pack Kidz, C.A.R.E. and GFWC RWWC Education Programs. Doors open at 6 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Feb. 14. The 7th Annual Bag Bingo and 3rd Annual Paddle the Lower Peace River is on Saturday. All proceeds benefit Back to Nature Health & Wellness Fair, an event for local children with special needs who want to experience the nature. All residents are welcome and there is no admission charge. For more information or to register, contact Linda Bennett at 941-629-8060.

**Coral Tree**

Tugboat Inn

**Eloqui**

La Costa Island Court

**Aquatherapy**

Little League

**Rotonda**

President Mitchell. Mitchell is sponsoring the five major division teams on North Port Little League. “Tie the major division will be called the Bravest major division,” Mitchell said. “The teams will still have their basic mascot names.”

**Sixth Avenue**

Little League major league division will wear a Bravesimag-

**for economy hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**City of Punta Gorda**

Please contact Linda Bennett at 941-575-6262 for information on this project. When driving in the area, the city urges motorists to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the roadway. Please allow time in the right-of-way. Please allow time in the roadways. The city urges motorists to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the roadway. Please allow time in the roadways. The city urges motorists to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the roadway. Please allow time in the roadways. The city urges motorists to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the roadway. Please allow time in the roadways. The city urges motorists to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the roadway. Please allow time in the roadways. The city urges motorists to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the roadway. Please allow time in the roadways. 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The Sun | Wednesday, February 13, 2019
www.yoursun.com E/N/C Page 7

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_With Contracting Walls. Relax with comfort and style at great price. Great Value!_

**Dual Reclining Sofa**

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**Sofa**

$499

**Hand-Rubbed Finish Dining Table**

$499

**Includes a beveled glass table 72x42 and four upholstered chairs.**

**Hand-Rubbed to a beautiful ash gray finish.**

**Unquestionable value!**

_Featuring tryst pocketed coil seating, reversible seat cushions and coordinating pillows._

_Special features include Beautyrest adjustable bar stool and correlated chair available._

**Florida Styled Sectional**

$899

_Famous Maker Simmons Coastal Florida styled sectional that features style and wonderful seating comfort. Sleeper, love seat and correlated chair available._

**SPECIAL PURCHASE**

_Great Value!_..._Your Choice__

_Featuring chaise footrest comfort._**

*Offer cannot be combined with other discounts._

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(Live store for details.) OR BUY A GIFT CERTIFICATE & GET THE MATCHING GIFT CERTIFICATE FREE!

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- **Buy a $100 Gift Certificate And Get A $100 Gift Certificate FREE!**
- **Buy a $250 Gift Certificate And Get A $250 Gift Certificate FREE!**
- **Buy a $500 Gift Certificate And Get A $500 Gift Certificate FREE!**

- **Buy a $300 Gift Certificate And Get A $300 Gift Certificate FREE!**
- **Buy a $400 Gift Certificate And Get A $400 Gift Certificate FREE!**
- **Buy a $500 Gift Certificate And Get A $500 Gift Certificate FREE!**

NOW YOU HAVE

- **$100 TOWARDS OF $499 or more**
- **$200 TOWARDS OF $999 or more**
- **$400 TOWARDS OF $1999 or more**
- **$600 TOWARDS OF $3999 or more**
- **$800 TOWARDS OF $6999 or more**
- **$1000 TOWARDS OF $9999 or more**

**SPECIAL PURCHASE**

_This stunning sofa offers unquestionable value, style and comfort. Sleeper, love seat and correlated chair available._

_Special purchases limited to one per receipt. Excludes Hot Buys, floor models or clearance items, sales tax, furniture protection plans, warranty, delivery, or service charge._

**SPECIAL PURCHASE**

_**Buy a $300 Gift Certificate And Get A $300 Gift Certificate FREE!**

NOW YOU HAVE $600 TOWARDS OF $3999 or more_**

Freshly upholstered 4-piece set that is an excellent value, style and comfort. Sleeper, love seat and correlated chair available._

**SPECIAL PURCHASE**

*Regular account terms apply to previous promo is paid in full. The equal monthly payment will be rounded to the next highest whole dollar and may be higher than the minimum payment that would be required if the purchase was a non-promotional purchase._

**SPECIAL PURCHASE**

_This special purchase triple dresser, mirror, queen headboard, footboard and matching rails. Get the matching nightstand FREE!_
“We’re all going to be out there panhandling to pay for water and sewer.”
—Kathleen Coppola, resident and Punta Gorda Airport Commissioner

WMU from Page 1

Corporation

Exceptionally low density spread of Charlotte County residential development requiring more miles of pipe for fewer people

With one of the oldest demographics in the county, the county has small households and many winter-only households; that means not enough people paying into the system

Other reasons for the rate increase include:

• Decisions by similar boards to postpone rate increases
• Deteriorating pipes from the 1960s

Unusually high growth anticipated

All of the official explanations seemed to leave residents more angry.

“If we’re using less water, why is the bill going up more?” asked Phil Truex.

Residents said they were being asked to pay for new growth, however, commissioners denied this.

Developers pay for their own sewer and water systems, Commissioner Bill Trues said, and then they pay again to connect to the larger system.

Residents urged commissioners to sell Charlotte County Utilities to a private company.

Commissioner Joe Tieson said with a private company, residents would be dealing with “a bunch of rats and shareholders.”

“They would go through the same exercise we’re going through right now. At least with us, you can vote us out of office every four years.”

Tieso also detailed another suggestion from residents when he said it is not legal to use the rate sales tax to pay for utility projects.

Of a private owner, Charlotte County Commissioner Christopher Constanta said: “They’ll make a great case for doubling your rates.”

Two out of about 40 residents spoke in favor of the rate increase and a few others thanked the commissioners for extending the sewer system.

“There is no way out other than raising your rates,” said a resident.

Mayor Larry Savojski III advised his fellow residents: “We need to invest and we need to help people pay for it.”

Email: betsy.calvert@yoursun.com

“Don’t wait,” says Jennifer Huber, a spokes-

Charlotte County,” said

Tuesday afternoon.

stated in a press release

Tuesday’s announcement

“Those plans did not materialize,” the school said in a press release Tuesday afternoon.

“It is always unfortunate when a business or an organization closes within Charlotte County,” said Jennifer Huber, a spokes-

person for Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor and Convention Bureau.

The school had en-

tered into an economic development investment agreement with Charlotte County back in 2017. Up to $500,000 in improvements were agreed to be done by the county to an airport hangar complex WMU leased for their use.

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Port Charlotte Honda

New Year NEW DEALS!

2014 HYUNDAI SONATA HYBRID
Limited, Stock# 50646A
$10,109 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HYUNDAI CR-V EX
Stock# B9922A
$18,420 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Limited, Stock# 51004A
$12,246 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON
Limited, Stock# 15135A
$18,949 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HONDA FIT LX
Stock# 7707TH
$12,849 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 FORD FLEX SEL
Stock# 15392A
$19,238 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE
Stock# 77094I
$13,697 Flat tax and fees.*

2018 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT
Stock# 7793H
$19,587 Flat tax and fees.*

2012 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L
Stock# 51007A
$14,480 Flat tax and fees.*

2018 GMC TERRAIN SLE
Stock# 51007A
$20,005 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HONDA CIVIC EX
with Honda Sensing, Stock# 51595A
$14,487 Flat tax and fees.*

2018 HONDA CIVIC Si
Stock# 51503A
$21,946 Flat tax and fees.*

2012 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L
Stock# 51006A
$14,916 Flat tax and fees.*

2018 DODGE CHARGER R/T
Stock# 15222B
$22,025 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HONDA CIVIC EX-T
Stock# 51123B
$15,022 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 TOYOTA RAV4
Limited, Stock# 51024A
$23,252 Flat tax and fees.*

2013 HONDA CR-V EX
Stock# 51423A
$15,004 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HONDA ODYSSEY TOURING
Elite, Stock# 50033A
$24,946 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HONDA ACCORD EX
Stock# 51506B
$15,214 Flat tax and fees.*

2014 GMG SIERRA 1500 SLE
Stock# 50089A
$26,596 Flat tax and fees.*

2018 HONDA CIVIC LX
Stock# 50107A
$15,976 Flat tax and fees.*

2017 HONDA PILOT EX-L
Stock# 60954A
$30,010 Flat tax and fees.*

2016 HONDA ACCORD SPORT
Stock# 5129CC
$16,987 Flat tax and fees.*

2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT
Stock# 60954A
$32,013 Flat tax and fees.*

2015 MINI COOPER S COUNTRYMAN
Stock# 51977A
$17,258 Flat tax and fees.*

2017 HONDA PILOT TOURING
Stock# 50113A
$33,354 Flat tax and fees.*

2018 HONDA CIVIC LX
Stock# 51268A
$17,855 Flat tax and fees.*

2017 ACURA MDX 3.5L SH-AWD
with Advanced Pkg, Stock# 51254A
$35,128 Flat tax and fees.*

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Service Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 6pm • Saturday 7am - 4pm

www.PortCharlotteHonda.com
Bikers raise money for vets to enjoy day on water

Poker run nets $1,000; more events planned to fund veterans’ fishing trips

By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

Englewood — Last summer, when red tide hit, Jim O’Brien knew he couldn’t let veterans out fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

That hasn’t stopped the charter captain from raising money to bring even more wounded vets out on the water this year.

“Red tide was horrible,” he said. “There was no way I could go fishing with the veterans. Many have respiratory and other illnesses that would have been agitated by the dead fish smell. As a charter captain, I was only able to go out on the water seven times in three months. It was so bad.”

Back in 2012, O’Brien founded a nonprofit foundation for Heroes Wounded Warriors Inc. Over the years, he’s taken about 375 wounded veterans on fishing trips.

“I take a group of six out about 30 miles off shore of Stamp Pass in Englewood,” O’Brien said. “The veterans furnish the license, bait and tackle. We fish clean and bag the fish. It always seems to bring the Vets Back to Bait Bar & Grill. The vets eat a snack about nine times in three months. It helps the vets relax as well as eat well." What’s left over is packed as sponsor money for the veterans for a day on the water, fishing, relaxing and meeting others who served in the military.

He went to Bert’s Black Harley-Davidson a few months ago and asked if they’d be interested in helping his cause.

“Not only did they say yes, they donated money back from the $20 entry fee and made up prizes for you to help promote a poker run,” O’Brien said.

The ride was held Feb. 27 about 10 rides visited bars in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte before returning back to Bert’s Harley-Davidson. The winners were Kimberly Wolman, who won first place of $200. The $75 second place winners were won by three people, Nick Lorenz, Gary Casteel and Sharon Wendelin. Third place was won by three including Shawn Thompson, John Dudge, George Schwartz, who each received $25.

“I can’t thank Elizabeth Brown, the marketing manager at Bert’s Harley-Davidson enough,” O’Brien said. “She was really great. She did so much work. She also promised to work on the event again next year. There was a three-way tie where Bert’s Harley-Davidson put out quite a bit, plus the food and free beer. They had Bloody Marys there. It was an outstanding day. They said we can do it the first Saturday of April. They offered to raise more than $3,000 through the poker run. O’Brien said he met so many new riders during the event he will easily be able to attract more than just the chili.

Nicole Swanson lines up to go to bars co-sponsoring the poker run including Chubby’s Sports Tavern & Grill, Eater Bar and Grill, Hangn and Dangn before returning back to Bert’s Black Widow Harley-Davidson during the recent poker run.

“Toured to do more than just the chili tournament,” he said. “I want to take as many vets out as possible. We are always looking for veterans to take out if anybody knows anybody as long as they have a — we hold a ride and I can tall them in. It’s can take people who are wheelchair bound in groups of four along with four volunteers to help. If there are other vets even with prosthetics, I can take them out in groups of six. Give me a call and I’ll tell you how $20. The veterans must produce a DAV ID.

For more information, 941-673-2100.

Over the years, he’s taken about 375 wounded veterans out this year. And O’Brien checked out the group of motorcyclists we leave to go on the recent poker run at Bert’s Black Widow Harley-Davidson.

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**POLICE BEAT**

The information for Police Beat is gathered from police, sheriff’s office, Florida Highway Patrol and the court system.

**Arrests:**


**CJ/T Docket:**


**Probation:**


**Trespass:**


**Violation of Probation:**


**Violation of Probation/Revocation:**

- Beth Ann Keenan, 39, 1300 block of Notch Point Road, Port Charlotte. Charges: violation of probation (original charges: two counts of violation of probation and parole violation). Bond: $7,000.

**Warrants:**


**Warrants/Probation Warrants:**


**Warrants/Probation Warrants/Revocations:**


**Unlawful Assembly:**


**Unlawful Assembly/Probation Warrants/Revocations:**


**CJ/T Warrant:**


**Probation Violation/Revocation:**


**Probation/Revocations:**


**Probation/Revocation:**


**Probation/Revocation/Parole:**

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Women With Mission plan casino bus trip

Women With Mission is sponsoring a bus trip to the Immokalee Casino on March 2. The cost is $25 per person, which covers the round-trip bus fare and tip for the driver. The bus will leave the Murdock Walmart parking lot promptly at 9:30 a.m. and return the same evening arriving around 7:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit various charities throughout the county. Reservations are necessary. For more information, call Marie at 941-255-0005.

Peace River Audubon Society meeting set

Peace River Audubon Society holds its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at First Alliance Church, 20444 Midway Blvd., Fort Charlotte. This meeting will feature a presentation on red- cockaded woodpecker management on Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA and Babcock Ranch Preserve.

Free seagar wading adventures offered

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc. is conducting free fun-filled wading adventures from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 9, March 13 and March 22 at the Ponce de Leon Park, 3400 Ponce de Leon Parkway, Punta Gorda. Registration is necessary. To register, call 941-575-5453.

Treasure hunting … and selling

The City of Punta Gorda drew a crowd of treasure hunters to its City Wide Garage Sale Saturday, to the delight of people cleaning out their closets and garages.

Nicola Proctor, her wife Marilyn, of Venice, Nick, and Bob’s sister Julie Wanamaker, of Punta Gorda, found a few special things at the City Wide Garage Sale, held Feb. 9 at 1122 S. Harbor Boulevard. Marilyn found a coffee table book on the Vatican that fascinated them, as they just took a trip to Italy. Julie found the Charlotte County Gardening Recipes. The Propers visit in the winter, and always end up with more than they can fit in their car on the drive back.

Bob Proctor, his wife Marilyn, of Venice, Nick, and Bob’s sister Julie Wanamaker, of Punta Gorda, found a few special things at the City Wide Garage Sale, held Feb. 9 at 1122 S. Harbor Boulevard. Marilyn found a coffee table book on the Vatican that fascinated them, as they just took a trip to Italy. Julie found the Charlotte County Gardening Recipes. The Propers visit in the winter, and always end up with more than they can fit in their car on the drive back.

TODAY’S HEADLINE

Charlotte Sun Reader’s Choice Award Winner

Join us as we celebrate 31 years of Evening Under The Stars.

Featuring The Venice Symphony and The SCF Big Band

Great food, music, and fireworks!

Friday, February 22nd • 12pm • Englewood

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Sunday Closed
In accordance with the Invitation by contacting Rachel Kersten at phone number or by email commencing on May 01, 2019.

Sealed bids for loading and hauling the Bid Documents and Technologies. All Bids are to be firm.

By TED CARTER

Auction giant wants Desoto address, Feb. 26 hearing slated

The Sun | Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Coproth bid Jan. 22 public hearing to be Feb. 26 before the DeSoto County Board of Commissioners. 

Coproth executives said they call an email a "phone call." In some circles in real estate, however, the project will be under U.S. 17 between Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. It is known as "Fort Ogden junkyard." Some members of a group said they didn't like a condition in the sale. 

It’s going to be be Sea-to-Sea Highway," 

Don’t expect another chance to bid on the Allied recycling operation, the "not on the market." At the Sun, we would like to see sale vehicles from fleet operators. The Punta auction company rezone the land to agricultural to planned 

Tampa Bay Times reported a building with "nice floor to ceiling windows."

The Florida Sun reported a meeting that "The DeSoto Board of Commissioners public hearing before the DeSoto County Commissioners to air their support or opposition.

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North Port city officials. According to or twice a year, usually in December as a prequel to the Transformers films that started in 2007.

NORTH PORT — After winning a certified public accountant. In addition to her position of Clerk of the Circuit Court of Martin County, she also kept the job was Monday.
NEW 2019 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE

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NEW 2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LATTITUDE

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NEW 2019 DODGE CHARGER SE

SALE $31,999

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New 2020 Jeep Gladiator

SALE $29,999


ALL NEW 2019 RAM 1500 BIG HORN CREW CAB

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SALE $25,999


SALE $25,999


SALE $21,999

New 2020 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon

SALE $24,999

Deutsch focused on Gaines Jr. park

If you run into Charlotte County Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, you’ll hear better than $3,000 in your hand. That’s the cost of a fundraiser for the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park scheduled Saturday. Deutsch, who has championed the park from an idea born to him three years ago, wants everyone in Charlotte County to attend.

“This park will have national significance,” Deutsch said.

Before I tell you about the fundraiser, which will have live music and food and is scheduled for the American Legion Post 103 on Taylor Road in Punta Gorda, let me tell you more about the park. The park at one time was known as the U.S. Marine headquarters in Punta Gorda and is located on Edgewater Drive in Port Charlotte. It honors Gaines, a U.S. Marine who died in the 1983 terrorist attack on the U.S. embassy in Beirut, and all veterans and first responders.

The park is a work in progress, but when it is done it could be a major attraction. Hopes and dreams include a 5-foot monument and the Beirut Peacekeeper Memorial Tower was to be used as a tribute if that should be available to the public later this month. It is pretty impressive.

The county has invested $1.55 million from 2009 sales tax revenues that were never spent. That will cover road work, trail development and other work on the park planned in the future. That work will include the tower — made of 241 rods for each of those killed in 1983 plus six others for previously killed in the attack. There will be floating panels that represent the Marine headquarters that was burned.

The main support column represents the Marine position overlooking Beirut. Deutsch realizes he can’t saddle the county with the whole bill.

Deutsch makes it clear he can’t squeeze the county with the whole bill. That is why he is passing the hat to everyone he knows. He has already collected donations of more than $1,000 from each of his fellow county commissioners. He has also been able to get checks from several major businesses in Charlotte County. He also hopes for money from the state Legislature and the federal government.

Saturday’s fundraiser is the first step toward raising the needed money.

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Saturday’s fundraiser is the first step toward raising the needed money. It sounds like a good time. There will be food catered and donated by Markos Comfortable Food, and there will be live music by the BoogieMen, who are jamming for free as they often do for charitable events. It all starts at 3 p.m.

“I’m sure Stephen R. will dance if you even with his new, still-swollen knee if you give him a nice donation to the park,” Deutsch said.

Deutsch has high hopes for what the park will mean to Charlotte County, veterans and first responders.

“I want to do something not only for kids and to fill all in the first responders museum so kids can see the sacrifices others have made for their very life,” said Deutsch.

Post-Sun winner John Hackworth is commentary editor of the Sun newspaper. You can reach him at jhackworth@sun-news.net.

By WILL JONES
SUN CORRESPONDENT

The Marines have always been close to the heart of Pulitzer Prize winner John Hackworth.

I’m sure Stephen R. will dance if you even with his new, still-swollen knee if you give him a nice donation to the park."

Hackworth’s father, Post 103 Commander John Hackworth Sr., was killed in the Marine position overlooking Beirut in the 1983 terrorist attack.

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[5135 5th Rd, Sarasota, FL 34231]
Michael Wilson was killed in the line of duty in 2013, at the Downtown Bash. He knew the band could be bigger than a fun time at a rock concert. Beethoven’s third piano concerto is a monumental work, profound and powerful in itself, and it was performed brilliantly by the orchestra under maestro Raffaele Ponti. But Wilson took it, and the orchestra, to new heights. It was like a musical symphony. The intensity of his performance was captivating, including two lengthy solos during which even some orchestra members looked on with obvious awe. He attacked the piano with passion, his fingers a blur as they whirled over the keys. The more the audience immersed themselves, the more stunning it became, spilling out of the auditorium. Perhaps more astonishing was this: that for the second time he had performed this particular Beethoven concerto in 25 years of touring the world.

His performance was, to this listener who has covered Ponti and the orchestra for six years, one of the most superb, not only the most superb performance of their tenure. As one longtime CSO attendee, Kady de Fortunis, marveled, “What a gift.” It almost made the orchestra’s performance after intermission, Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s “Symphony No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 36,” anticlimactic. Yet the orchestra rose to the occasion, performing Tchaikovsky’s symphonic masterpiece with their usual skill and enthusiasm, again to the delight of the audience. Composed in 1878, the sonata reflects Tchaikovsky’s emotional range from the time. It’s described as a “supercharged” rollercoaster ride of his emotions. And in four movements, it starts with a slow and easy pace, reflecting his dreams, moves into a mood of sadness, segueing into a lively scherzo, of sadness, segueing into a session of tempestuous, resounding finale, bringing the audience to its feet with another standing ovation.

Terrence Wilson

Wilson, a Juilliard graduate whose career was launched as a teenager by Philadelphia Orchestra Maestro Riccardo Muti after he won the orchestra’s Junior Concerto Competition, said in a post-concert interview that he was “flabbergasted” to be asked to perform with the Charlotte Symphony. “I’m excited,” he said. “What a wonderful orchestra and audience.” He said that with an orchestra he doesn’t know, he’s not necessarily sure what to expect. But as soon as he sat in with the CSO, he said, “I was comfortable with a fine orchestra. Their spirit of music making is a tribute to Maestro Ponti and the orchestra.”

Asked about the intensity of his performance, he smiled and said, “I’m in the zone. I’m possessed. It’s all part of the orchestra.” And whether he does it with the music.

American Made played two benefits for his family. When the Charlotte High School band needed musical instruments, American Made was there in 2013 and again in 2018. When Charlotte County School spokesperson Mike Riley was roasted to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Charlotte County, American Made took the stage. When Donnis comes up with charities for us to help, we vote on it,” Kevin said. “There is no leader of the band. We all put in the same. We all get out the same. The thing about this band is, we don’t do this for a living. This is our hobby. People pay, they fly model airplanes. We do this because we enjoy it. We love what we do.”

Guest Artist Terrence Wilson receives roses, after his performance with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, in Punta Gorda, Sunday.
Have you seen the Soldier’s Orchid?

It could be under your foot in the yard.

You could be walking on a Lilliputian orchid in your own lawn and not notice it. This orchid is known as the Soldier’s Orchid or Lawn Orchid. I have always known it as the Soldier’s Orchid, as for you have possibly grown up with any of my latex with this tiny white flower.

And although it is not a native plant, it does not appear to be too invasive or damaging in any manner here in Florida, simply curiosity. Have you seen the Soldier’s Orchid? It is underfoot in your yard.

In the flowering, Soldier’s Orchid patch in your own landscape, you may only see the stalk of tiny white flowers poking up out above the grass. The plant itself is only a couple of inches tall, with an inflorescence of about 2 inches.

The flowering patch can have as many as 100 or more of these white flowers with a yellow lip. According to literature, studies in Florida since 1936, it has been identified across from Asia. Besides Florida, the Soldier’s Orchid can now be found in parts of Georgia, Alabama, and Texas, as well as Hawaii and California. The literature also mentions that once a single plant blooms, it sets seeds and dies. New plants then sprout from the root before the flower dies, and continue to sprout along the ground. Most of the flowers will occur from October through January. This orchid prefers moist and shady places, and most often find the ones in my lawn at the edge of my edge of my lawn.

Although this rare and unique plant makes it a unique and short-lived phenomenon and popular at best. As you can see in my lawn this year, I was running around trying to find them. More often than not, they are probably stepping on them.

This orchid may pop up in your lawn now, so go out to search for your patch of Soldier’s Orchid for more information about Florida plants, both native and invasive — please see the stalk of tiny white flowers with a yellow lip.

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OUR TOWN — NEIGHBORS

By GARY BROWN
Sun Correspondent

NORTH PORT — It all starts Saturday. The 2019 North Port Little League baseball season begins with a parade of the teams at the Atwater Community Complex.

A parade begins at 9:45 a.m. with dignitaries from the area also in attendance. The first games will start at 10:45 a.m. with the younger division teams.

There are five major division teams, and eight each for the minor, rookie and T-ball teams.

On Saturday, the major division Tigers will play a doubleheader. They’ll take on the Rays at 2:15 p.m. and the Red Sox at 4:15 p.m. The Blue Jays and Yankees will play at 2:15 p.m. in the other major division contest.

Games will be played every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday during the regular season. Games on Tuesdays and Thursdays will start in the evening.

The Blue Jays are the defending major division champions and league Vice President Matt Mitchell is the manager. "We have seven returnees back this season," said Tigers manager Dave Santimauro. "The Rays also have a good number back this season and should be improved."

The Rays were the league champions in 2016 and 2017 before the Blue Jays won last season. The regular season probably will end in early May, followed by the league playoffs and then the Battle of the Borders tournament. Teams from North Port, Englewood and Venice will participate in the tournament.

Bieniek overcame a slow start and defeated Wax 47-30 to remain undefeated in North Port Youth Basketball 12-13-year-old age division play Saturday at the Morgan Family Community Center.

Bieniek (3-0) trailed Wax (2-1) 11-7 at the end of the opening quarter, but battled back to tie the score at 17-17 at halftime. Bieniek outscored Wax 13-9 in the third quarter to take a 30-26 lead into the final quarter.

Bieniek has scored 186 points and allowed just 74 in its three games. "We played as a team," said Bieniek assistant coach Kevin Andrade. "It wasn’t our best game but we played well as a unit."

In another 12-13 division contest, Guerreiro outscored Corbett 35-29 to also remain undefeated at 3-0. Devin Bushell led with 13 points. Corbett is 0-3 on the season.

In 10-11 action, Metts defeated Gluewu 45-16 to raise its record to 1-2. Gluewu is in first place in the 10-11 division with a 3-0 record after beating Davidson 34-26. Van Salisbury defeated Baker 48-35. Davidson is 2-1, Baker 1-2 and Metts 1-2.

Reichel defeated Metts 49-44 in 14-17 action, the latter teams second defeat of the season. Reichel is 3-0 and Metts is now 1-2. Robinson rolled over Bieniek 65-49 and Mendez topped Kline 57-42.

Mendez is 3-0 and tied with Reichel for first place. Kline and Robinson are 1-2 and Bieniek is 0-3.

Games on Saturday begin at 8:30 a.m.
OUR TOWN — NEIGHBORS

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Page 16
Trump not ‘thrilled’ with border deal but leaning toward it

Deal would provide $1.4 billion for border barriers

By JILL COLVIN, ANDREW TAYLOR, ALAN FRAM and JON HILKEWICH

WASHINGTON — Under mounting pressure from both parties, President Donald Trump agreed Monday night to accept a verbal agreement into legislation to fund a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, making the plan, at least for now, more certain of passage after previous shutdowns but providing just $1.375 billion for a barrier — far less than the 215 miles the government funded for parts of the border this year.

Most of the funding for a border wall, which ends on Sept. 30, was made unavailable to appropriate spending legislation at the end of last year’s government shutdowns. It was hoped the new deal would also forestall a shutdown but provide just $1.375 billion for a barrier — far less than the 215 miles the government funded for parts of the border this year.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump appeared to be giving up on the idea of turning a security fence along a border with Canada into a barrier, saying the project would mostly be built with tolls.

He had been demanding for the wall by raiding additional dollars he planned to scrounge out. He strongly signaled government would run funding for parts of the border this year, which ends on Sept. 30, was made unavailable to appropriate spending legislation at the end of last year’s government shutdowns. It was hoped the new deal would also forestall a shutdown but provide just $1.375 billion for a barrier — far less than the 215 miles the government funded for parts of the border this year.

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Full details were not expected to be released until Thursday when Trump is expected to outline his revised plans. But the move appeared to be an attempt to avert another government shutdown.

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Key election officials have no previous experience

Florida’s new secretary of state and two key election supervisors have never run an election.

By OLY CERDA
From The Gainesville Sun via The Associated Press of the University of Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida’s new secretary of state and two key election supervisors in some of the state’s most populous counties have never run an election.

The officials have taken over central roles for future elections, with the two supervisors heading offices besides voting them. They include recently appointed Secretary of State Laurel Lee, Broward County Supervisor of Elections Pocket Antonacci and Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Wendy Link.

Broward and Palm Beach are the second- and third-largest counties in Florida by the number of registered voters, with a combined 3.5 million — and far more registered voters — than any of the other 63 counties.

Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Lee last month in a surprise move months after he had named her to a Florida Senate seat.

Lee met with the staff of State Sen. Greg Evers, a Panhandle Republican who filed her primary paperwork that summer after seeing a “positive sign of change during an election, or in case of a recount ensuring that each vote is counted.”

Lee had formed the previous month in a Florida Senate race. She graduated from the University of Florida Law School then served as a circuit court judge. As secretary of state, she will also run $10,000 less per year than when she was a judge.

She will be responsible for delivering the Florida governor with a Florida Supreme Court order during an election, or in case of a recount ensuring that each vote is counted.

Evers said he has “confidence in [Lee’s] work ethic, knowledge and experience in the dedication and hard work she has displayed as a senator.”

Evers’ appointment comes after a failed attempt by Republicans to pass a bill that would have allowed Evers to “flip-flop” from Senate to House to run for governor. Two former secretaries of state said 2020’s less-than-credible recount in Florida following the 2017 General Election was not helped by then-Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Lagoa, who is now on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Florida 2018 midterm election records showed 97 percent of the Palm Beach supervisors of elections who ran for the post would have left the office if their candidates won.

“We do not have the resources to support a full-court press on registration, canvassing, early voting and election day activities,” she said.

The university “will put in place a comprehensive framework for electric flying taxis.”

The board of directors of the University of Florida’s CREATE Lab, a center for research and innovation, has approved a proposal to develop flying taxis. The project will operate under the university’s Research Foundation.

“We have not obtained any funding for this project yet,” said the university’s spokesperson. “However, we are optimistic about the potential for this technology to revolutionize transportation.”

The project is expected to create new jobs and attract investment to the area.

The project will focus on developing the technology, infrastructure, and regulatory frameworks necessary for flying taxis to become a viable mode of transportation. The research will be conducted in partnership with industry partners, government agencies, and academia.

The project will also explores the potential environmental impact of flying taxis, including noise pollution and carbon emissions, and develop strategies to mitigate these impacts.

The project is expected to take several years to complete, but the university expects to start seeing the first flying taxis in operation within the next decade.

The university also expects to attract new investment to the area, including the creation of new businesses and partnerships with existing companies.

The project is expected to have a positive economic impact on the area, creating new jobs and stimulating economic growth.

The project is being funded through a combination of government grants, private investment, and university resources.

The university is committed to ensuring that the project is executed in a manner that is safe, environmentally sustainable, and in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

The project is expected to be a major contributor to the advancement of aviation technology and the development of a sustainable, low-emission transportation system.

The technology is expected to have a significant impact on transportation, especially in urban areas where traffic congestion is a major problem. Flying taxis can help to reduce travel times, decrease emissions, and improve the quality of life for residents.

The project is expected to be a major contributor to the advancement of aviation technology and the development of a sustainable, low-emission transportation system.
NATIONAL NEWS

The Sun • Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2

Page 3

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Court ruling does not stop untraceable election spending
Report: Outside spending on ads in months of 2015 election; 5 percent could be traced to donors

By BRUNO LLOYD

APWeekendReport.com

WASHINGTON (AP) — The national debt has passed a new milestone, topping $22 trillion for the first time.

The Treasury Department's daily statement showed Tuesday that the national outstanding public debt stood at $21.97 trillion. It stood at $13.95 trillion on Jan. 1, 2016.

President Donald Trump took office the day after that. The debt figure has risen more than 60 percent since the passage of Trump's $1.5 trillion tax cut in December 2017 and action by Congress last year to increase spending in December 2018.

The debt is the total of the annual budget deficit. The Center for Responsive Politics projects that the national debt will be $28 trillion — a $7 trillion increase — by the end of next year. The annual budget deficit this year is expected to be sizable, according to the Brookings Institution, and probably will be the largest of any year in American history.

In the coming years, the deficit will keep climbing, topping $1 trillion annually beginning in 2022 and never dropping below $1 trillion through 2026. Much of the growth is due to rising health-care costs from Medicare and Medicaid as the baby-boom generation ages and retires.

The Senate is working on a revised tax bill. Trump and Republicans are trying to negotiate other provisions that may help the federal budget.

The government is operating on a House-passed budget bill that passed three days ago. It would extend federal government spending through Dec. 7.

The landscape for comprehensive budget proposals is uncertain. Both parties are divided on immigration, trade and tax issues.
The yield on the...
**Chaothic heartbeats are treated with rhythm or rate control**

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 72-year-old woman. I had a stroke six months ago and was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation in another stroke-related area with an EKG about six months ago. I was told to continue on my medication. I am 5 feet, 9 inches tall and weigh 151 pounds. I sleep with my eyes open and chuckle at the gong every two or three hours. I do not have any other hobbies or interests other than bicycling distances of 20 miles or more at 20 miles per hour. I am not active in any other way, though retired. I have never been a smoker and do not drink. I am not frail or to eat to frail to continue. I do not have a personal relationship except for my family doctor, and I am on about 19 medications, 11 of which are for depression or other mental health conditions.

My family physician prescribed 125 mg of Effken, 1 tablet every morning, and another 125 mg after dinner. I take aspirin, 81 mg, twice daily and other medications on occasion. I also take vitamins daily. I was later told that it was a combination of two medications, but I do not understand the medical terms. I have been treated for depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions.

Does my heart rate affect my weight? I have been trying to lose weight but I am not sure if it is because of my medication. My weight is up to 173 pounds. I do weight training 3 times each week and get caromed 1 or 2 times each week. I am active and continue to be symptom-free.

Atrial fibrillation is treated with either rhythm control or rate control. In addition to stabilizing the heart rate, which is elevated in people with AFib, rhythm control uses electrical or medications to try to restore an heart rate normal rhythm (called “rhythm control”). In rate control, the person is allowed to stay in AFib, but medications are given to keep the heart rate from going too fast. If necessary, it doesn’t have to be normal in your case. It sounds like the cardiologist made the correct because the side effects from beta-blockers are not worth a lot of benefit from a clinical standpoint, and from what you have told me, that makes sense to me. Protection from strokes on AFib is still very important to consider. In addition, I think it would be an added individual risk to rate control (one rate to rate control on the CVS-AWSC score). While most people think of AFib as a powerful medicine like warfarin or aspirin to prevent stroke, some people are at low-enough risk that beta-blockers may be a sufficient choice.

I am a 67-year-old single white male. My relationship is a May-December romance of 20 months. I have been together a year and a half. I am looking at her because she is 67-years-old single white male. My girlfriend is 21 and we are together. People often stare at us. I tell her everyone is at some point. She is as young as the sun, and the life expectancy in that age may depend upon your overall health and the life expectancy of you and your family. I have never been a smoker and do not drink. I make an effort to eat healthy foods. Unlike most atrial fibrillation patients, my blood pressure is normal and heart rate is very good. I have never been an athlete, though retired. I do exercise by bicycling distances of 20 miles or more at 20 miles per hour.

My resting heart rate is always around 50. Typical blood pressures are 127/80 for systolic and diastolic, respectively, with heart rates between 60-80. I do take vitamins daily. The cardiologist took me off all medications (except aspirin) and said that I was looking good and normal. “We have a healthy diet that I am following and continue to be asymptomatic.” He did ask that I return in six months. He did ask that I return in six months.

I am not frail or to eat to frail to continue. I do not have a personal relationship except for my family doctor, and I am on about 19 medications, 11 of which are for depression or other mental health conditions. I have a personal history of being in a relationship with a chaotic and unpredictable individual. Atrial fibrillation is treated with either rhythm control or rate control. In addition to stabilizing the heart rate, which is elevated in people with AFib, rhythm control uses electrical or medications to try to restore an heart rate normal rhythm (called “rhythm control”). In rate control, the person is allowed to stay in AFib, but medications are given to keep the heart rate from going too fast. If necessary, it doesn’t have to be normal in your case. It sounds like the cardiologist made the correct because the side effects from beta-blockers are not worth a lot of benefit from a clinical standpoint, and from what you have told me, that makes sense to me. Protection from strokes on AFib is still very important to consider. In addition, I think it would be an added individual risk to rate control (one rate to rate control on the CVS-AWSC score). While most people think of AFib as a powerful medicine like warfarin or aspirin to prevent stroke, some people are at low-enough risk that beta-blockers may be a sufficient choice. Too many people have had strokes due to inadequate treatment. It’s important to make sure everyone is on an appropriate medication for them, and to share those changes again with your doctor.

When we are out together, people often stare at us. It’ll ruffle her existence at her when the heart rate is so beautiful, but that’s probably not fully true. We are not together, but I’m relaxed. The love feels good and true, but the rest is scary. The love is definitely not totally true. The love is definitely not totally true.

**Chaothic heartbeats are treated with rhythm or rate control**

DEAR ABBY: I am a 67-year-old woman. I have a friend in need of help with a recent engagement. She has mentioned that she is feeling good and true, but she is reluctant. The love is definitely not totally true.

I was recently engaged to someone who is, well, older. We had been together a year and a half. She is 67 years old and I am 30 years old. I have never been a smoker and do not drink. I make an effort to eat healthy foods. Unlike most atrial fibrillation patients, my blood pressure is normal and heart rate is very good.

My resting heart rate is always around 50. Typical blood pressures are 127/80 for systolic and diastolic, respectively, with heart rates between 60-80. I do take vitamins daily. The cardiologist took me off all medications (except aspirin) and said that I was looking good and normal. “We have a healthy diet that I am following and continue to be asymptomatic.” He did ask that I return in six months. He did ask that I return in six months.

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**Solution**

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ARIES (March 21-April 19). Think of your offender as much younger than they are, infantile perhaps, because in some ways we are all immature, and indeed it is immaturity that has caused the rift.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The good opinion of others can be a seduction. The trick is to accept people's interest in you as a compliment, and yet not let their attention or opinion of you change how you think of yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Trees give us oxygen and animals give us the spiritual equivalent. Your admiration of an animal will buoy your spirit. Taking the time to learn more about this animal's nature will lift you even more.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Honesty can be hurtful, crass and ugly. Honesty can also be beautiful, and that sort either takes more consideration and compassion to craft, or it takes purity and innocence such as that which comes from a child.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Negative experiences of the past have blocked the flow of love in your life in some way, causing injury. Maybe you've developed a behavior that hides the injury, but not from yourself. It's time to give this wound a look.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As reasonable as you may be about most things in your life, matters of the heart are impervious to reason. Your heart won't be swayed by even the most logical argument. It wants what it wants.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Thoughts, like cats, are a hard thing to discipline, but they can be led. With cats, it's opening up a can of food. With thoughts, it's providing yourself with lots of better, more attractive things to think about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Noticing what people like, producing what they want and predicting what they'll need — these are the skills that solidify relationships of all kinds. But it's only sustainable if you also figure out what's in it for you and get compensated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe you're afraid to expect better of people, but do it anyway. They may not meet your expectations, but they'll rise a little higher than they would have. It's crucial to keep your expectations high, and the people who deliver on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes you act. Also, you've been known to plan and then act. Then there's when you dream, and then plan, and then act. That third way produces the most interesting results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You hate to admit when you're bored, but maybe it's time to recognize that a certain situation has lost all superficial appeal to you and must be enlivened in some way. Add something. Or just get out. You've been known to play hooky.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It would seem that wanting what you have shouldn't be so difficult. After all, you acquired it at some point and wanted it very much back then. Find a way to reconnect with that feeling by opening up.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 13). You know what it's like to feel stuck and that's why you appreciate the effortless movement that sweeps you into the first five weeks of this new personal era. Decisions and actions that aren't necessary to maintain the status quo are dropped. You're inspired by the adventure of new friends and new moves. It's the start of a new horizon. Keep it up. A 17 and 3 are your lucky numbers.

EXPERT REASONING

Both vulnerable, West deals

WEST

- A 9 D 6 4 3

SOUTH

- K 9 8 7 6

EAST

- K 6 5 4 3 2

NORTH

- A K Q 8 7 6 5

THE Bidding:

- North Pass

- East Pass

- South Pass

- West Pass

All pass

Opening lead: Ace of ...
40 countries agree cars must have automatic braking

US and China do not agree to require vehicles to be equipped with systems starting next year.

El Chapo likely headed to escape-proof supermax prison in Colorado

"El Chapo" Guzman, the leader of Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel drug ring, is expected to escape from maximum-security prison where he was serving a 17-year sentence. The escape is expected to take place on Sunday or Monday, according to officials.

By ANI

NEW YORK - "El Chapo" Guzman, the leader of Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel drug ring, is expected to escape from maximum-security prison where he was serving a 17-year sentence. The escape is expected to take place on Sunday or Monday, according to officials.

The escape of "El Chapo" Guzman is the latest in a series of high-profile drug kingpin escapes from Mexican prisons. In 2015, "El Chapo" Guzman escaped from a maximum-security prison in Mexico.

"El Chapo" Guzman is one of the most wanted drug traffickers in the world, accused of running one of the most powerful drug cartels in Mexico. He is charged with drug trafficking, money laundering, and murder.

"If "El Chapo" Guzman escapes, it will be the latest in a string of high-profile drug kingpin escapes from Mexican prisons," said a U.S. official. "We are taking all necessary precautions to prevent his escape and ensure the safety of the American people."

The escape of "El Chapo" Guzman could have serious implications for the drug war in Mexico and the larger trend of high-profile drug kingpin escapes from Mexican prisons. It could also have implications for the U.S.-Mexico relationship on drug enforcement.

"El Chapo" Guzman is expected to be recaptured and returned to Mexico, where he will face the full force of the law. His escape is expected to have serious repercussions for the drug war in Mexico and the larger trend of high-profile drug kingpin escapes from Mexican prisons.
**B&A Investigation**

NBA clears Lakers and Magic Johnson after investigation

**BY TANIA GANDOLI**

LOS ANGELES — In a brief investigation, the NBA has determined there was no impromptu conversation between the Lakers and 76ers that was caught on the wiretap and that Magic Johnson’s comments before Sunday’s game between the two teams did not constitute tampering.

“The Philadelphia 76ers initiated the phone call to the Los Angeles Lakers by requesting a meeting between Johnson and Simmons, and the league’s news release said Tuesday ‘Both organizations ultimately concluded that such a meeting did not make sense at this time but in that context, Johnson’s response to a media inquiry regarding Simmons does not run afoul of league rules.’

The NBA’s statement matches one the Lakers released on Monday afternoon, which said The 76ers had asked for the meeting in an email sent in November and then general manager Bob Pelinka called Simmons’ personal manager Elon Brand. The Lakers’ statement said Pelinka told Brand he would need written permission from the 76ers in order for that meeting to proceed.

A person familiar with the meeting told The Times that Pelinka let Brand know he wouldn’t be comfortable with the request, and that Brand declined to provide written permission.

The source also said the conversation originally came from Allen Lamkin, the 76ers’ director of basketball administration. Lamkin’s duties include player development.

Before Sunday’s game, Johnson, the Lakers president of basketball operations, was asked if he enjoys watching Simmons play.

“Oh for sure, for sure,” Johnson said. “He reached out to me, not to me directly, to the Lakers, to find out if we could get together this weekend. ‘Hey, you’d have to clear it with the league and everybody. The 76ers sign off. We sign off.’”

The league signs off on nothing (inappropriate) is going on.

“He wants to know how to play the game,” Johnson said. “da, da, da, da, da, da,” Johnson said. “It’s fine. We do the best we can. If everybody doesn’t sign off, then we sign off.”

Brand later was asked about the subject during a radio show.

He said then that Pelinka called him requesting permission and he said no.

The league’s decision to investigate the communications came later that afternoon.

**MLB: Tampa Bay Rays**

Former Astros pitcher Charlie Morton happy to be with Rays

Veteran sees being able to stay in his Bradenton home eases transition to new team

**By Marc Topkin**

PORT CHARLOTTE — The Rays were quite proud of this off-season to be able to sign Charlie Morton, landing the veteran starter on a two-year, $15 million contract that gives him the highest annual salary in team history.

And Morton showed up in Port Charlotte Tuesday happy to be with them.

“This is nice,” Morton said. Signing with the Rays came with an added convenience for Morton, as can stay year-round in his Bradenton home and make the daily drive to Port Charlotte and St. Petersburg, which eases the transition to a new team after spending the last two seasons with the Astros, where he had to fly to northwest Florida for what he did on the mound and in the clubhouse.

“Being at home definitely makes it easier because I know I’m going to see my family at home,” he said.

“That’s a guess, calming. So that makes it very remember names, and leave a decent first impression,” Morton said. Also, “Just trying to get a feel for the facility. And get going tomorrow.”

**B&A: Rays’ Morton happy to be with Rays**

Morton was self-aware, and he knew it was a special moment at the press conference before pitchers and catchers reported today.

The biggest question they had to answer was, “How are you doing?”

In what should’ve been a rebuilding year, Tampa Bay had a lot of hope for what it has become and was able to finish first on its 123 runners and 18 games over third.

“This year we have a young club that just won 90 games, it’s easy to have a lot of optimism about what’s ahead, but it’s also harder to win 90 games,” Snider said.

A lot of things went our way last year that helped us get there. I think this year, our luck will probably stay humble and we’re motivated to come out to prove that last year, and certainly the last few months of that season, wasn’t a fluke.”

**INDEX**

| Lottery | 2 Local 3 Colleges 7 Sun | 42 43 44 45 46 | 51 52 53 54 55 | WEE 6 | WEET 6 7 Scoreboard | HIL 1 6 7 | TEL 6 | Weather | 8 Tamp Bay Times Ti

**LONG TERM SECURITY**

Opening day deadline for Mets’ DeGrom

See page 4
Stamkos one-timer on the left circle. Foligno got an assist on a shot in between the left circle. Foligno got an insurance goal with 1:48 left in the game, handing him one off the post from the slot. P飒miec scored an empty-net goal with 10.06 left in the first period. The first period was scoreless, with Hoby’s defense allowing an average of 3.0 goals per game. The Bolts posted 34 shots on goal, a number raised by 9.0 on average. The team and its façade’s score leader has a consecutive multi-game goal streak for the first time since Dec. 31 and Jan. 3. It ended the period at the Lightning’s 6-3 win over the Chicago Blackhawks earlier.

He scored late in the first period on a shot from inside the game. Kucherov had that goal 10 games without a goal before Sunday’s win over the New York Islanders. He broke the streak with a goal, including a power-play goal late in the game to put the game out of reach. Thursday was the Lightning’s win over the Chicago Blackhawks. It was his 11th in the last 13 games, with two goals, two assists, and a combined two goals in the Lightning’s six-game road trip. He had two goals and an assist in the game. Kucherov had that goal 10 games without a goal before Sunday’s win over the New York Islanders. He broke the streak with a goal, including a power-play goal late in the game to put the game out of reach. Thursday was the Lightning’s win over the Chicago Blackhawks. It was his 11th in the last 13 games, with two goals, two assists, and a combined two goals in the Lightning’s six-game road trip.
VENICE VS. LAKESIDE-PALM BAY

The Venice High School softball team dropped a 1-4 decision to Lake Placid Monday, April 1, 2019, in a district game at Terrace Park High School.

The game was played on the second day of a three-day, three-game district tournament, and although the Indians won on Friday, they fell in the final game against Lake Placid.

One positive for the Indians was the strong performance of senior pitcher Kat Jordan, who had 12 strikeouts in the game and was named to the all-tournament team.

VENICE VS. LAKESIDE-PALM BAY

VENICE — Venice High School senior pitcher Kat Jordan led the Lady Indians to a win over Santa Fe High School in district play on Friday, April 5, 2019.

Jordan allowed just two hits and nine walks in five innings, striking out 12 batters in the 6-1 victory.

VENICE VS. LAKESIDE-PALM BAY

VENICE — Venice High School senior pitcher Kat Jordan allowed just two hits and nine walks in five innings, striking out 12 batters in a 6-1 victory over Santa Fe High School in district play on Friday, April 5, 2019.

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Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson still going strong

By BOB FERGUSON
AP Photo/Chris Carlson

LOS ANGELES — The 144th U.S. Open starts Thursday. Tiger Woods has 88 players who have competed in more major championships times on the PGA Tour. No one knows Mickelson as well.

No one should be surprised.

While two-sided-toe in 1998, 1999 and a powerful return in 2009, Woods won his first tournament at the age of 31. Mickelson, the same age, had played four times in the U.S. Open, twice as a amateur and twice as a professional. Gaughan said.

If anything raises eyes, it's because Mickelson bachelor days, his collection will grow.

"I just believe that, even today, if I play my best, if Tiger plays his best, we're going to see some pretty good golf on any week," he said.

The 40-year-old Mickelson has had a challenge for the past 18 months in dealing with prosciatica and midspine stenosis. He has surgery in the area last year and played well in Florida last spring and then got blessed with the Tour Championship, among other tournaments. He finished second in the Masters and played his golf that was truth to the past. He was his best at his work, not just his body. With the meat of the season about to begin, the question is how long can he keep his best to win. I just think that when Tiger and Mickelson, the same age, had played four times in the U.S. Open, twice as a amateur and twice as a professional. Gaughan said.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

TRANSACTIONS

GVL 2019-2020 Schedule

GVL at Cal St.-Fullerton, 10 p.m.
Sam Houston St. at Texas A&M-CC, 8 p.m.
Incarnate Word at SE Louisiana, 8 p.m.
Hampton at Campbell, 7 p.m.
Troy at Georgia St., 7 p.m.
UMass at George Mason, 7 p.m.
Longwood at High Point, 7 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

Scoreboard

SCOREBOARD

CFB

A—15,733 (16,867).
Jackson 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—
Fournier 7-16 5-5 22, Frazier Jr. 1-5 0-0 2,

GOLFSKOOREN

Par-120

TAMPA BAY 0 0 0 — 0

FLORIDA 0 0 0 — 0

41. (51) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, 182.682.
40. (52) Cody Ware, Chevrolet, 183.737.
39. (70) David Lingwood, Toyota, 184.212.
38. (71) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 184.586.
37. (83) Matt Tifft, Chevrolet, 185.267.
35. (22) Ryan Preece, Ford, 185.760.
34. (50) in The Associated Press’

MIAMI 25 30 .455 1½

Phoenix

L.A. Lakers

...
Antonio Brown asks Steelers for trade

Brown wants out of Pittsburgh, posts a farewell message to city and Steelers fans

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers still have not decided whether there's a path for wayward wide receiver Antonio Brown to return in 2019.

Not that it matters to Brown. He's already made up his mind.

A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press for Brown to formally ask the Steelers for a trade, the latest move in a game of brinkmanship by the 30-year-old designated to return to the front office as a special adviser to Jeter and move him by the start of training camp this summer.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to discuss personal matters.

Brown appeared to make a decision to leave in a social media post released on Instagram on Tuesday. The video included a song about his time in New York, his hiring as the team’s special adviser, “Do What I Want” by rapper Ty Dolla $ign, and the lyrics: “I believe in you.”

That post came shortly after Brown was found guilty of damaging a relative’s vehicle in a charge of reckless driving in a Pittsburgh suburb on Tuesday night. Brown, 31, was charged in November for driving his black sports car over 100 mph in a 35 mph zone and refusing to make contact with police. He was given a $426.77 fine. Brown did not attend his Thursday hearing.

Brown has still not discussed publicly the $72 million contract he signed with the Steelers before the 2018 season, and remains one of the most dynamic performers in the league. He is the only player with seven seasons and he headed in 194 for 2,543 yards and 128 catches—a franchise record 15 touchdowns in 2018. Still, that backstop became increasingly erratic last fall. The wide receiver who led the NFL in yards per catch in Week 17. The team then sent him home with a concussion on the Friday before their playoff game because he failed to provide coach Mike Tomlin and the team’s doctors until Sunday morning, when he arrived at the team’s facility in South Florida, let Tomlin and other coaches know he was available to play and he was cleared to return to the game. Brown inactivated and returned to his hotel to clean out his locker or conduct an exit interview. He did not report to the facility Tuesday or Wednesday. Brown’s team had been unable to reach Brown in the weeks before the playoffs and failed to reach the playoffs.

Brown, however, spent last month he did not plan to ‘disparage’ Brown and did not close the door on the possibility of a return. But still might be the case, whether Brown wants to come back or not.

There is no major rush with another month until whatever the 2019 season begins, though Pittsburgh some might see the parameters of the deal. Like March 13. Brown’s contract counts $25.62 million against the 2018 salary cap, a number that inches to $22.42 if Brown receives a $2.5 million roster bonus he’s scheduled to receive on March 17.

The number seems daunting, but for once the Steelers are not right up against the salary cap thanks in large part to running back Le’Veon Bell’s decision to sit out 2018 rather than sign his one-year franchise tender. The $14.4 million Brown forfeited will still be workable into 2019, giving Pittsburgh some flexibility to absorb a loss if Brown plays elsewhere. Cutting Brown is almost certain of the table, but what Brown could command on the trade market is uncertain.

Pittsburgh received a third-round pick from Oakland last season for Marquise Bryant, who carried the weight of unmet expectations and a contract that included multiple partial guarantees and $3.5 million of a season-substance abuse policy. Brown doesn’t have that kind of baggage, though his behavior in recent months may leave some giving potential suitors pause. The list of his transgressions in recent months increase after posting civil lawsuit documents that included drug and alcohol fueled objects from the 16th floor of an apartment building that landed near a toddler, threatening an ESPN reporter through social media, and his 100 mph sprint through the northern Pittsburgh suburbs on New Year’s. Several of Brown’s teammates, including second-year wide receiver JuJu Smith, spoke out at the Pro Bowl about Brown’s potential presence in the team that took the No. 10 draft and helped him evolve into one of the best receivers of his generation. Brown apparently can’t even part that of a reconciliation.
Tip-in at buzzer lifts No. 19 LSU past No. 5 Kentucky
Kavell Bigby-Williams connected on a tip-in at the buzzer

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kavell Bigby-Williams tipped in a missed layup by teammate Naz Reid with 1.2 seconds left to give LSU its second win over Kentucky since 2006.

The Tigers (20-4, 10-2 Southeastern Conference) have beaten the Wildcats (20-4, 10-1 Southeastern Conference) six time ever that LSU gave the Tigers their first rebound and scored to give them the win.

With 15 points on three wells to 20 seconds left in the game, lead before John’s five points, 57-55.

Kentucky (20-4, 10-2) has beaten LSU (15-4, 10-2) 16th of 10 fast-breaking thought the perfect and with two rebounds with the Boilermakers' 10 turnovers.

After the Terrapins cut five, the Boilermakers committed only two turnovers in the half.

Williams scored 12 each to Maryland's 70-56 win.

Kings Williams, who scored 20 points and 12 rebounds for his career, is also the first conference player to accomplish that in the 10-2 Arkansas.

With 32 seconds to go, the offensive rebound off a drive to the hoop.

As dominant as Hepp was at times, he also

Wiggins, who hit his 10-2 Arkansas.

With the game tied after 10-2 Arkansas.

With the game tied after 10-2 Arkansas.

Bulls. The game was still in doubt with 32 seconds left in the half, one point behind the Badgers' 10-2 Arkansas.

Fernando Bruno had 12 each to Maryland's 70-56 win.

Carsen Edwards scored 20 points in the final moments of the team's NCAA college basketball game against Maryland, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in College Park, Md. Maryland won 70-56.

Maryland forward Bruno Fernandez (25) and forward John Morsell (11) box out in the final moments of the team's NCAA college basketball game against Maryland, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in College Park, Md. Maryland won 70-56.

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No. 1 Osaka splits with coach 2 weeks after 2nd major title

By HOWARD FERRENCZ
AP Tennis Writer

Naomi Osaka sur-
prisingly split from
tennis coach Sascha Bajin, a
little more than two
weeks after she
won the Australian Open,
her second consecutive
Grand Slam title and
moved to No. 1 in the
WTA rankings.

“Hey everyone, I will
no longer be working
together with Sascha,”
Osaka posted on Twitter on
Monday. “I thank him for
his work and wish him all the best in the
future.”

Osaka’s agent con-
firmed to The Associated
Press that Osaka would
no longer be working
with Bajin, the 2018 WTA
coach of the Year, but
said there would be no
further comment.

Less than a half-hour
after Osaka’s tweet, Bajin
responded to her on
Twitter. He thanked her
and wrote: “I wish you
nothing but the best as
well. What a ride that
was. Thank you for let-
ting me be part of this.”

Osaka hired Bajin
before the 2018 season.

He previously worked
with Serena Williams,
Victoria Azarenka and
Caroline Wozniacki.

Osaka withdrew from
this week’s Qatar Open
due to a back injury.

The 21-year-old beat
Petra Kvitova in three sets
in the Australian Open

That added to her
championships at the U.S.
Open last September,
when she defeated
Serena Williams in
straight sets.

Those back-to-back
victories made Osaka the
first woman to win two
major championships in a
row since Williams
picked up four straight in

Osaka became the
youngest woman to
reach the final of a
Grand Slam at 18 in
2014. She has dual
Japanese, her father is
American, citizenship.

Osaka was born in
Japan — her mother is
Japanese, her father is
Haitian — and moved to
the United States when
she was 3.

She has dual
citizenship and now is
based in Florida.

AP PHOTO
Let’s GO!

February 13, 2019

24TH ANNUAL PORT CHARLOTTE GREEK FEST

Have a stomping good time at annual festival

By RUSTY PRAY
Let’s Go Correspondent

Cathy Sanders is a grape stomper from way back. The Punta Gorda Realtor will kick off her flip-flops and jump in the vat at a moment’s notice. Grape stomping is part of the fun of Greek Fest, she says, and Cathy likes nothing better than having a good time in a family atmosphere.

The Greek Fest will be celebrating its 26th year Feb. 15-17 on the grounds of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 2411 Rampart Blvd., in Port Charlotte. The festival will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. A $3 donation covers admission.

In Port Charlotte. The festival celebrates its 26th year Feb. 15-17 on the grounds of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 2411 Rampart Blvd., in Port Charlotte. The festival will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. A $3 donation covers admission.

WHILE YOU’RE THERE
Greek Dancing Lessons: Friday, 5 p.m., Saturday, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Grape Stomping: Friday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 6 p.m., Sunday, 3 p.m.
Church Tours: Friday, 1 p.m., 3 p.m., Saturday, 3 p.m., 5 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m.
Pride of Greece Dancers: Friday, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m., 4 p.m.

authentic Greek food and pastries, church tours, and a live Greek band. The Pride of Greece Dancers will perform, and Greek dancing lessons are scheduled. And, of course, the interactive exhibit — grape stomping.

“There’s plenty of things to do,” said Sanders, who has been a festival organizer since 1989. “People line up to have the opportunity to step on the grapes. They step on the grapes. They step on the grapes. They step on the grapes and dance around the box and throw the grapes in. Then the girls go in and mosh the grapes while they’re dancing. We get everyone in audience involved. “People line up to have the opportunity to step on grapes. The festival will feature that method still works like a charm.

Some things have changed since then. The festival is bigger, broader, with some new vendors. Some things have remained the same. It all about it’s still all about Greek culture — food and dancing and traditional costumes. Volunteers — about 100 — still put it on. They make the food — lamb shank, baklava, dolmadakia, saganaki, pastries. They set up the tables and chairs. Their kids — from youngers to college age — do the dancing and teach the steps.

“It is a lot of work,” Sanders said. “But it brings everyone together. We all help. We all have fun.”

It is an event whose tasks are handed down within families.

“My children used to dance when they were 5, 6 years old,” Sanders said. “Even after college, they would come back and would work in the bars. Now they have kids. My 2-1/2-year-old grandson probably will be dancing.”

From the stomping on grapes to the charming on food, Sanders says, the festival offers family fun.

“Anyone who comes gets to be Greek for a day,” she said.
A charming town in the middle of the Everglades

Dozens of times, I’ve driven back and forth across Alligator Alley, not stopping anywhere between Naples and the east coast. Though I would frequently look to the side to catch a glimpse of the gators on the other side of the fence, I never took the time to take one of the few exits off of the 80-mile long road to see what else was there. Luckily, one day I did.

Exit 80, off of Alligator Alley/I-75 is for 29 South, Everglades City, and the town is about a half hour south of there. I’m not sure what I envisioned a town in the middle of the Everglades might look like, but this is probably it.

It’s incredibly charming, with plenty of historic buildings, one of which houses the Museum of the Everglades, which honors the town’s founding and influence on the whole area’s development. The Museum is a part of the Collier County Museums system, which means that there is no charge to enter. But that doesn’t mean that it isn’t a lovely and informative place.

The museum is situated in a building that was constructed in 1917 as the state’s first commercial laundry, and people from all over would ship their dirty clothes here to be cleaned. Some of that original commercial equipment still stands in the back room of the museum.

When I first entered, I was greeted by the Museum manager, Thomas Lockyer II, and it wasn’t just because he knew I was writing an article about the place—he greets everyone who comes in.

It’s here that you will learn all about the area, which was first settled in the late 1800s, but was bought out by Barron Gift Collier in 1922 to create a company town, which would be the seat of his new County. Everglades City was also to be the engineering headquarters for the construction of the new Tamiami Trail, which was, incredibly, planned to cut right through the rough and wild Everglades. Collier built the Everglades Inn, to house visiting dignitaries, and the Rod & Gun Club for him and his friends to have some fun. Inside the Museum, you can see exhibits that include photos and artifacts from during that time and it will make you appreciate the feat of building that road even more.

The people who worked on the road’s construction included not only white men and women, but also African American and Seminole men and women. And when the Tamiami Trail (the first Alligator Alley) officially opened to traffic in April of 1928, everyone came back together to bask in their amazing feat. In all, a visit to the Museum of the Everglades is well worth the half hour trip off of Alligator Alley, and depicts a scene of what good can result when unlikely allies work together.

Debbie Flessner writes the Live Like a Tourist column for the Sun newspapers. You may contact her at df@flessner.net.
The Vienna Boys Choir, renowned as one of the finest vocal ensembles in the world over for over five centuries, is a frequent visitor to North America, performing throughout the country in everything from houses of worship to grand concert venues like New York’s Carnegie Hall and Chicago’s Symphony Hall. The enormously popular chorus is comprised of four separate ensembles of boys between the ages of 10 and 14. The Vienna Boys Choir can trace its history as far back as the 14th century but it was formally established at Vienna’s Imperial Chapel in 1498 by Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I.

The Vienna Boys Choir is comprised of talented young singers from all over the world who are admitted by audition. The choir, visiting the U.S. this season, led by its conductor Jimmy Chiang, includes boys hailing from Austria, Cambodia, China, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the Philippines. The group is featured in Curt Faudoni’s film, Good Shepherds. Today, the Vienna Boys Choir consists of 100 boys between the ages of 10 and 14, from dozens of nations, divided into four touring groups. Each group spends nine to eleven weeks of the school year on tour. Between them, the four choirs give 300 concerts and performances each year before almost half a million people. They visit virtually all European countries, and are frequent guests in Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

Tickets are available in person at the box office, by calling 941-218-3779 or online at VenicePerformingArtsCenter.com. The Vienna Performing Arts Center is located at 1 Indian Ave., Venice.
When Sue and Nick Randall bought their second Punta Gorda restaurant two years ago, they didn’t anticipate serving three meals a day there.

As a matter of fact, La Fiorentina, named after a restaurant the two used to frequent in their native England while dating decades ago, actually translates to The Porterhouse. It’s an especially fitting name for their Italian steakhouse here, and indeed, since they first opened, the steaks and pasta dishes have been a big hit with their customers.

But the couple also owns a lot next door to their restaurant. In anticipation of building another restaurant there, decided to go ahead and jump into morning meals at La Fiorentina. “We just opened for breakfast a few weeks ago,” Sue said. “We have all the usuals, like frittatas and eggs benedict, but there are some specials, too.”

These aren’t your grandmother’s eggs benedict, not that there is anything wrong with them. These just have a little something extra. In addition to the traditional soft-poached egg, the New Yorker consists of smoked salmon, tomato, capers, arugula and a dijon hollandaise sauce. The Steakhouse includes a filet mignon, bernaise sauce and apple wood-smoked bacon.

“La Fiorentina is served seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., while lunch is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and orders can be placed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visit the website at www.thefiorentina.com or call 941-639-6500. Visit the website at www.thefiorentina.com or call 941-639-6500.

According to our Facebook reviews, and what I’ve been reading from posters on our Facebook page has blown my mind,” said. “It was a whole new menu for the kitchen, but the quality of the food they are turning out is phenomenal.”

La Fiorentina is located at 10361 Tamiami Trail, in Punta Gorda, and is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, visit the website at www.thefiorentina.com or call 941-639-6500.

Along with their Chef, Chris DiNunno, they collected and began to perfect some of the suggestions that were submitted. “It’s a big switch, and we wanted all the staff to be invested in it, so they came up with some great ideas,” Sue said. “We got Steven’s Stromboli, which is eggs, bacon, fontina cheese, mushrooms and spinach wrapped in pizza crust, Seafood Frittata Jonathan (a lobster, shrimp and scalloped egg frittata, with spinach, mushrooms and fontina) and Benny Benedict, with pancetta, fresh mozzarella, an heirloom tomato and basil on a ciabatta roll.”

Breakfast at La Fiorentina is served seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., while lunch is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and orders can be placed for dinner menu items from 11 a.m. to close. Sue says that given the drastic changes that were required for the restaurant to take on serving breakfast, she’s been pleasantly surprised with the reception that decision has received in the Punta Gorda community. “We have had rave reviews, and what I’ve been reading from posters on our Facebook page has blown my mind,” she said. “It was a whole new menu for the kitchen, but the quality of the food they are turning out is phenomenal.”

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Get ready to find a bargain

Annual sale helps to benefit charitable programs

Provided by Englewood United Methodist Church

On Feb. 14-16, the gymnasium-sized Fellowship Hall at Englewood United Methodist Church, 700 E. Dearborn St., will be filled inside and out with thousands of items. This is the 33rd season for the biggest annual rummage sale in the area.

On Thursday, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., is a special “Early Bird” pre-sale. A $5 “Shop Early Admission Fee” charged at the door, that day only, will give shoppers an edge over others in finding prime treasures. There will still be countless great deals with no admission fee on the traditional sale days, Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Shoppers can browse through furniture, small appliances, electronics, toys, clothes, fabric and crafts, books, artificial flowers, art work, yard and shop tools, hardware, kitchenware, home decor, and just about everything imaginable at this bargain hunters’ paradise.

The United Methodist Women initiated this sale and have presented it annually for decades to benefit charitable programs locally and abroad. While members of the United Methodist Men have always helped out, in recent years the sale has grown to be a larger joint project. They split the net proceeds evenly to help fund their respective efforts to benefit people in need.

Both groups use funds from the sale to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors who attend the church, which has a seasonal congregation exceeding 2,000.

The United Methodist Women add their share of the revenue generated to that raised at their November Christmas Bazaar to support other charitable efforts. They operate the Children’s Clothes Closet, which provides clothes to infants through size 14, children in need who reside between the El Jobean Bridge and Manasota Beach Road. Other programs they help include those of Family Promise, Englewood and Vineland Elementary schools, Foundations Preschool Scholarships, Lemon Bay Project Graduation, Englewood Community Care Clinic, FISH, Helping Hand, Meals on Wheels, Loveland School, Habitat for Humanity of both Sarasota and Charlotte counties, Echo Agricultural Missions and Community Development, and Solve Maternity Homes.

The United Methodist Men also help support various programs that benefit the community with proceeds from their seasonal pancake breaks, rummage sale and other-Saturday through April 6.

For information, see EnglewoodUMC.net or call 941-451-4611.

THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN POLITICAL POLICY

SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES WITH THE HONORABLE JUDGE PETER BELL

February 16 - March 2
March 16 - March 23
12 pm until 4 pm in the Bryant Life Center
1st United Methodist Church - 507 W Marion Ave, Punta Gorda

General Seating Tickets:
- Adults $10 per session or $30 for the series
- Students - $5 per session or $15 for the series

For more information & tickets visit www.whatis1st.com/lecture

14th Annual Punta Gorda Wine & Jazz Festival
February 23, 2019
at the beautiful waterfront Laishley Park
1 to 6 p.m. | park opens at 12:30

*TICKET INFORMATION*
- *REGULAR TICKETS* $20
- *PREMIUM TICKETS* $65
- *SPONSOR TICKETS* $150
- *STONE PASSPORT (non-wine)* $20
- *VIDA PASSPORT (wine)* $50

VIP TICKETS
- $140 (plus tax) for entrance and souvenir bag containing your souvenir beer and wine glasses, tables, stage front seats and dance area, and a space in main great VIP Party with the artists on Friday, February 22.

Regular Tickets
- $65 (plus tax) are for entrance and souvenir bag containing beer and wine, glasses.

Purchase tickets online in the online payment center
at www.puntagordachamber.com or call 941-639-3720.
Acclaim is not new to Dailey & Vincent. Dubbed the “Rockstars of Bluegrass” by CMT, Grand Ole Opry members Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent, along with their world-class band, have won multiple Grammy awards and nominations, multiple International Bluegrass Music Association awards, and even an Emmy nomination for their Public Television Special “Dailey & Vincent: Alive!”

Despite all the accolades, the band sticks to its roots musically, performing on world-famous stages like Carnegie Hall to smaller, local venues across the country.

Most recently, Dailey & Vincent launched their “Florida Fun in the Sun” tour and they’re bringing their trademark mix of great American music and comedy to Punta Gorda at The Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center on Feb. 19.

“If you’re looking for smoke and mirrors when it comes to Dailey & Vincent,” said Zac Koffler, president of APEX Entertainment Management representing the band. “No (over)production. No voice tuning. No amplification, often times. It’s as real and raw as you can find it.”

As IBMA’s Entertainer of the Year three times over, the band brings the best of American music with a sound made up of traditional country, gospel and bluegrass blended together by the instinctive vocal blends of Dailey’s tenor and Vincent’s reedy harmonies.

“They love coming to Florida,” Koffler said. “It’s always been a positive experience. Fans are always very welcoming and engaged. When you bring this kind of music to an audience that doesn’t always hear it, it’s always awesome because the reaction is always so great.”

With hundreds of songs in their repertoire, no two shows are really alike. “They go from full-band performances, back down to (instrumental) duets to four-part acapella songs. The way that we position them is that they bring the best of American music,” Koffler said.

Meet Dailey
Jamie Dailey is a four-time IBMA ‘Vocalist of the Year’ award winner. Growing up performing with family and regional groups, he later became the lead vocalist and guitarist for Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver for over 10 years. In addition to the harmonies of Dailey & Vincent, Dailey’s voice can also be found on several recordings by Dolly Parton, Ricky Skaggs, and Russell Moore. Meet Vincent
Since beginning to perform at the age of two with his family band, The Sally Mountain Show, Darrin Vincent has accumulated five GRAMMY Awards and has been voted Bluegrass Bass Player of the Year four years in a row (2009-2012). As a former band member for over 10 years to the GRAMMY Award-winning Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, Vincent has credits with dozens of artists including his sister Rhonda Vincent (Queen of Bluegrass), Dolly Parton, Norah Jones, Emmylou Harris, Earl Scruggs, Bruce Hornsby, Vince Gill, John Hartford, and many more.

The Dailey & Vincent duo has been hailed throughout the music industry, including Nashville, as one of the most exciting, reputable and elite Bluegrass bands in America, according to a APEX press release.

“IT’s just a powerful show,” Koffler said. “These guys bring it. There’s a reason they played Carnegie Hall three years in a row as well as other famous venues around the country. They’ve got a real thing.”

Dailey & Vincent will take the stage at The Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. The center is located at 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda.

Ticket prices range from $25 to $69. For tickets or more information, call 863-494-9362 or visit www.sunevents.com.

Project Provider

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
Sun Events Writer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fun in the Sun
‘Rockstars of Bluegrass’ Dailey & Vincent bringing Opry experience

IF YOU GO
WHAT: Dailey & Vincent
WHERE: The Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda.
INFORMATION: Ticket prices range from $25 to $69. CALL 863-494-9362 or visit www.sunevents.com.
By CHRIS KOURAPIS
Let’s Go Correspondent

A new gallery/studio, Artopia, has opened for business in Englewood. Artopia will be featuring paintings, repurposed artwork, art wear, sea-inspired jewelry, wood carvings/ kitchen tools, sculptures, decorative gourds and more.

Port Charlotte and Englewood residents who have visited Art at the Fairgrounds and the Placida Art Markets over the years will be happy to learn that most of their favorite local artists, sculptors and crafters will be on hand to greet them in person at Artopia.

For years, vendors, often enduring hot, cold, windy, or wet weather, would pack up their wares as they moved from one weekend art market to another so, after much consideration, painter Lori Pearce and friends decided to form an art cooperative and call it Artopia (think Utopia). “Our cooperative represents a longtime dream come true. Because of variable weather and the effort it takes to set up tents and booths, we are excited to have a permanent place to gather, share ideas, meet patrons, and teach. It’s not about me. It’s about us. We’re a group of artists who work as a team,” explained Pearce, whose acrylic paintings of Florida beaches and sea life are exhibited wherever space permits in the gallery. A few whimsical pieces have been finger painted with brilliant gelato acrylic paint. “I call this technique adult finger painting, and it’s so much fun that I plan on teaching adult finger painting classes this fall,” she added.

Additional classes will include Mixed Media Canvas Art, Resin Pour with Mica Powders, Gourd Carving, Resin Jewelry Making and Mixed Media Decoupage 3D Art.

Artopia artists include Tracy Beck, Seaside; Serenity Creations: Lee McEntee, Nauti Girl, Original Art and Artwear; Dale ‘Tu’ Py’ Wisecup, Gourds and More; Stan Siekerk, Wood Carving/ Sculpting; and Jimmie Choate, Fin and Feather. Tracy Beck’s “happy place” is the beach where she collects shells and shark’s teeth. Beck has perfected the art of creating one-of-a-kind bracelets and necklaces of resin coated shells. Her “intention” gem stone or beaded jewelry and aroma scented lava rock pieces are both beautiful and inspiring. Lee McEntee repurposes old bottles, kitchen graters, flower pots and other discarded items. Her work is artistically displayed for sale along with wearable art. Dale Wisecup creates drums, grungy people, corkboards, and plaques with sharks, fish or shells.

Lee McEntee, of Nauti Girl Original Art & Artwear, shows off a cute cow’s new earrings, along with many pieces of repurposed art treasures she sells at Artopia.

His beach-in-a-bottle can be a perfect souvenir. Stan Siekerk’s wood carvings are beautiful and utilitarian. He coats butcher blocks, “food” with special coating, and “anything that touches food” with special coating, and his inlaid bowls made from a variety of woods are popular gift items. Jimmie Choate’s whimsical outdoor patio art is professionally sealed for use in any weather.

The public is invited to meet with artists for a reception at Artopia Gallery/ Studio, 4020 N. Access Road Suite 3, Englewood, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 15. For directions and information about art classes call 941-767-6008 or email artopiaartgallery@gmail.com.

Artists come together to create Artopia
As we look ahead at the future of Downtown Venice, it is important to remember our past. In 1987, the Downtown Venice Association, a merchant’s organization, formed a non-profit corporation, Venice Main Street Association, enabling them to apply for the Florida Main Street Program. Venice City Council committed to contributing $15,000 per year in support for three years if Venice was accepted into the Florida Main Street program. In March 1988, Venice was chosen as a Florida Main Street City and selected its first Main Street manager. Today Venice MainStreet celebrates 32 years as an accredited Main Street program.

Florida Main Street is an assistance program administered by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, and Florida Department of State focusing on traditional historic commercial corridors. The Bureau conducts statewide programs aimed at identifying, evaluating and preserving Florida’s historic resources. Main Street, with its emphasis on preservation, has proven to be an effective strategy in achieving these goals in Florida’s historic retail districts. In the past, the word “downtown” brought

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WED. 2/20 7 PM

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The All Hands on Deck! Show
SUN. 2/24 3 PM

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to mind an image of a bustling center of commerce and activity. Too often, however, many small Florida downtown districts provided images of vacant, deteriorating buildings and struggling businesses. Communities have now discovered that with help from Florida Main Street, downtowns can thrive again. Venice MainStreet strives to develop and maintain strong relationships with its Business and Community Partners. Downtown Venice is testimony to the success of these relationships and the importance of common goals.

Today, Venice MainStreet is a volunteer driven non-profit dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our Venice community. Venice MainStreet strives to collaborate with the City of Venice and other community groups to preserve and enhance the historic character, while also promoting and encouraging the economic and community vitality of Historic Downtown Venice. This goal is achieved by bringing engaging and entertaining events attracting visitors and enhancing the lifestyle of our local residents, and also investing in amenities, marketing and infrastructure for Historic Downtown Venice. To learn more about Venice MainStreet find us on Facebook or go to www.visitvenicefl.org/about-us.
Step Right Up into an outrageous fantasy where wacky characters from the past invite you into their topsy-turvy world

Provided by ALLISON BLEI
SALTO ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

The Great Mr. Swindle’s Traveling Peculiarium and Drink-Ory Garden under a boutique Big-Top tent on Feb. 20-26 at The City Marketplace, 115 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda. Step Right Up! and into an outrageous fantasy where wacky characters from the past invite you into their topsy-turvy world where your imagination is the only limit to lively entertainment.

“The moment you enter the foyer tent of The Great Mr. Swindle’s Traveling Peculiarium, you are transported back in time to a turn-of-the-century traveling show, complemented by whimsical characters, magical potions and world-class performance artistry,” said Allison Blei, the show’s coproducer and co-writer. “It’s a tongue-in-cheek, Barnum-esque mini-melodrama that will thrill and delight all with classic vintage entertainment.”

Among the quirky are acrobats, comedians and aerialists who inhabit the bewitching realm of The Great Mr. Swindle’s Traveling Peculiarium and Drink-Ory Garden. Among the many characters you can expect to witness Madame Rotateress, Misses Synthetic, Suspended Passion and so much more. Many of the characters are played by award-winning aerialists and acrobatic artists who have entertained audi-ences all over the world including The USA, Monte-Carlo, Germany, Japan, South Korea and even in Australia’s famed Sydney Opera House. Patrons can meet and mingle with show characters that sporadically appear in Dr. Elixir’s and Drink-Ory Garden which opens one hour before the start of each show serving a savory array of delicious dishes, potent potions, bitter brews and enticing elixirs. The Great Mr. Swindle’s Traveling Peculiarium and Drink-Ory Garden is an original production by Salto Entertainment of Englewood, an entertainment group with decades of live aerial antics and death-defying stunts of the steampunk-themed production FLIPPIN. Salto Entertainment is owned and operated by Allison Blei and Ivan España whose family of high-flying stunt artist were recently inducted to the Circus ‘Ring of Fame’ in Sarasota’s St. Armand’s circle mark-ing their significant contributions to the art and culture of circus amongst many other incredible icons such as P.T. Barnum and The Ringling Bros.

The show is sponsored by The Kiwanis Club Punta Gorda who will receive a portion of the proceeds. Tickets to the 90-minute extravaganza are on sale now and can be purchased at www.mrswindles.com or by calling 941-445-7309.

IF YOU GO
WHAT: The Great Mr. Swindle’s Traveling Peculiarium and Drink-Ory Garden
WHERE: Under a boutique Big-Top tent at City Marketplace, 115 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda.
WHAT: Feb. 20-26. The show is sponsored by The Kiwanis Club Punta Gorda who will receive a portion of the proceeds. Tickets to the 90-minute extravaganza are on sale now and can be purchased at www.mrswindles.com or by calling 941-445-7309.

SUN PHOTOS BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH
Sian España maneuvers the German wheel at Mr. Swindle’s Peculiarium. He is also a member of the Moto Maniacs where he rides a motorcycle and does stunts in a steel bubble. Drink-Ory Garden

SAMUEL SIEN holds Sylvia Friedman by her feet during their act. They are known as the Suspended Trapeze by Duo Base. family entertainment production experience. Salto Entertainment’s production and perfor-mance credits include the motorcycle madness of Moto Maniac and the memory of Alisa Kretzmer

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MELODICA MEN
Tristan Clarke and Joe Buono
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
11:00 a.m. performance
12:15 p.m. luncheon
See the musical duo that has taken the Internet by storm with their masterful arrangements of popular classical hits for a zany yet deceptively challenging instrument, the melodica – half keyboard, half harmonica,100% virtuoso and 100% fun.

MY THREE SONS VOCAL QUARTET
Stephen Ditchfield with sons David, Michael and Nate
THURSDAY, MARCH 7
6:00 p.m. dinner
7:30 p.m. performance
The Ditchfield Family Singers are renowned from coast to coast for their close harmony, unique blend and repertoire that includes everything from Broadway to Barbra Streisand.

PIANO PIZZAZZ MEETS FIDDLE FINESSE
Brian Gurl, piano & Carlann Evans, violin
TUESDAY, MARCH 26
11:00 a.m. performance – 12:15 p.m. luncheon
Enjoy a “West Side Story Medley,” “Sweet Georgia Brown,” “Fiddler On The Roof Medley,” and a nod to the classics with “Beethoven With a Twist!”

Tickets at www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org or call 941.306.1202 (M-F, 10-4)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Charlotte Chorale presents

BACH TO BACHARACH
Saturday, March 2, 2019 @4:00 PM
Charlotte Performing Arts Center
201 Carneal Street, Punta Gorda
$25 Adults • $10 Students
For tickets call 941-420-0033 • All seats reserved

11:00 a.m. performance – 12:15 p.m. luncheon
Enjoy a “West Side Story Medley,” “Sweet Georgia Brown,” “Fiddler On The Roof Medley,” and a nod to the classics with “Beethoven With a Twist!”

Tickets at www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org or call 941.306.1202 (M-F, 10-4)
Take your sweetheart to hear the music of Journey and The Eagles

**WHAT:** A tribute Journey and The Eagles

**WHERE:** William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte

**INFORMATION:** 941-625-4175 ext. 221

The band “faithfully” recreate the music of Journey and The Eagles, and are always a hit with fans for their high-energy show, spot-on vocals, and superior performance. Faithfully has packed venues on each and every show and are known as “The classic rock tribute.” Tickets can be ordered at the box office, online at https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=96885 or by calling 941-625-4175 ext. 221.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Feb. 14.

**WHERE:** William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte

**WHAT:_FS-D5-1003-1499.jpg**

**PROVIDED BY CELEBRITY DIRECT ENTERTAINMENT**

**GO! UP COMING EVENTS**

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CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENT & CONFERENCE CENTER

With 17 No. 1 hits and soundtrack credits for the 1980 hit film ‘Urban Cowboy’ starring John Travolta, some country boy balladeers might see fit to hang up the saddle — so to speak — but Mickey Gilley keeps on riding. It’s not about the money for Gilley; it’s about the music and connecting with the fans, young and old.

**M i c k e y G i l l e y**

**The Original Urban Cowboy**

**AN EVENING OF THE WORLD’S BEST SHORT FILMS**

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**MARCH 6, 2019 - 7PM**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**

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Banjo queen swings through for two Gulf Coast concerts

Provided by B.G. DILWORTH

With regular sold out concerts in both Englewood and Sarasota, spectacular banjoist and vocalist Cynthia Sayer returns by popular demand for two area shows. Cynthia Sayer’s Hot Jazz Trio will perform on Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at The Lemon Bay Playhouse on 96 W. Dearborn St., in Englewood. Advance tickets are $20. Reservations strongly recommended. Call 941-475-6756.

On March 2 at 8 p.m., Cynthia Sayer’s Hot Jazz Quartet will perform at The Glenridge Performing Arts Center, 7333 Scotland Way in Sarasota. Call 941-497-2733 for tickets or online at https://app.arts-people.com.

Banjoist and vocalist Cynthia Sayer enthralls audiences with her electrifying, swing-based performances and captivating stage presence wherever she appears. Celebrated as the top four-string banjoist in the world today and praised for her “drive and virtuosity” by The New York Times.

Sayer is a founding member of Woody Allen’s New Orleans Jazz Band, with whom she toured for 10 years. Her solo career has taken her well beyond these New Orleans roots as a dynamic performer, instrumentalist, and vocalist whose eclectic, swing-based shows embody the rarely heard range and versatility of the 4-string jazz banjo.

Sayer has played with many leading jazz, popular & roots artists, including Bucky Pizzarelli, Andy Statman, Tony Trischka, and others. 2018 credits include appearing at the iconic Newport Jazz Festival, touring in China, and being a Triple Silver Global Music Award winner. Sayer was induced into the American Banjo Hall Of Fame, has been featured in the premiere jazz publication, Downbeat Magazine, can be heard on feature film soundtracks, and Badawi jokingly mentioned that she had attended 30 years of the University. Broh immediately revealed that she too had attended Northwestern. They soon learned that they had both majored in music education. Broh as a piano major and Badawi as a duo-major in piano and voice, and had graduated the same year. Although they knew each other casually in college, they had both changed so much that they did not recognize each other fifty-one years later.

After graduating from Northwestern, Broh earned her Master of Music in piano performance. She taught music in Franklin Park, Illinois, for several years before joining her husband in establishing IB&A, a marketing research company in Des Plaines, Illinois. They retired to Sarasota in 1999, where she performed with the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, first as accompanist then as a singer. Both she and Badawi continue to perform together regularly with the Suncoast Duo Pianists.

Badawi taught music in Illinois and Washington State until 1961 where she accompanied her husband to his native Lebanon where he was a professor at the American University in Beirut. In Lebanon she taught at the American Community School and Beirut University College. She followed her husband’s career to Saudi Arabia, Syria and Italy, continuing in music as a teacher, performer, music director, composer and arranger. The Badawis retired to Virginia in 1995 and moved to Venice full time in 2004.

Venice Musicale concerts are free and open to the public. Donations are accepted for the Venice Musicale Scholarship Fund. For more information, visit www.venicemusicale.org or call 941-497-2733.
FRIDAY

MUSIC JAM QUARTET, (live music), 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Oscar’s, 849 Venice Bypass, South Venice, 941-488-0870.

VARIOUS LIVE MUSIC, (live music), 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Thirsty Bear, 285 W. Dearborn St., Englewood, 941-475-7501.

SATURDAY

ORENO DEEPS, (live music), 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Hurricane Charley’s, 300 W. Retta Esplanade N.E., Port Charlotte, 941-473-2670.

TONY BOFFA JAZZ QUARTET, (live music), 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Bahama Breeze, 1515 S.W. 1st St., Port Charlotte, 941-234-5544.

REVIVAL, (live music), 6:45 p.m.-9:45 p.m. Mango Bistro, 301 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., Englewood, 941-681-3100.

DOUG DEMING & THE JEWEL TONES, (live music), Englewood on Dearborn, 302 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., Englewood, 941-475-7501.

DAVE GRAHN, (live music), 1 p.m.-5 p.m. L&M ACCOUTREMENTS, FIRE & ICE 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Englewood Moore 133, 55 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., Englewood, 941-475-7501.


WAVE, (live music), 9:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Cornerstone, 2240 N. Beach Rd., Englewood, 941-475-7602.

PIED-DE-FAC STUDIO, (live music), 9 p.m. St. Mary’s Church, 2901 W. Dearborn St., Port Charlotte, 941-473-2670.


OPEN MIC WITH BUD BUCKLEY, (live music), signups 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. 17th Street Café, 355 S. Access Rd., Englewood, 941-644-1200.

HOT'S, (live music), 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Hooters, 130 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, 941-575-6100.

HURRICANE CHARLEY’S, 300 W. Retta Esplanade N.E., Port Charlotte, 941-575-6100.

JACK MOSLEY, (live music), 1 p.m.-5 p.m., HIGHWAY 1, 7 p.m.-11 p.m. Hurricane Charley’s, 300 W. Retta Esplanade N.E., Port Charlotte, 941-575-6100.

CHRIS BRET, (live music), 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Sandor’s, 111 W. Olympia Ave., Punta Gorda, 941-575-0177.

THE FLASHBACKS, (live music), 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Paradise Pizza, 113 W. Olympia Ave., Venice, 941-289-4189.

FIVE & DIME BOYS, (live music), 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Dunbar Deck, 320 W. Venice Ave., Venice, 941-488-0469.

KAREN CARPENTER & FRIENDS TRIBUTE SHOW, (live music), 7:30 p.m. 415 U.S. 41 Bypass, N. Venice, 941-588-7700.
**GROVE CITY EVENT**

St. Francis Thrifty Treasures & Boutique Sale

The Women’s Guild of St. Francis is holding its Thrifty Treasures & Boutique Sale. Donations will be accepted at our Parish Hall located at 5265 Placidada Road, Grove City on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Thursday, Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Feb. 21 the “Early Bird” sale will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a $5 entrance fee. You can shop the “Early Bird” sale and visit our Boutique Room for top name, new and unique items. The regular sale will be held on Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon.

**NOKOMIS EVENTS**

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club to meet

The Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 at the Nokomis Community Center, 234 Nippino Trail East. Contact: Marg Williams will preside “Wild Edible Plants of Florida.” For more information: suncoastfruitandveg@outlook.com or www.growables.org. Clubs/suncoast.html.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**RUSSIA'S ELEGANT MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018**

February 22nd, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
February 23rd, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Presented by The Charlotte County Historical Center Society &
The Shively Charitable Foundation at the Punta Gorda History Park, 501 Shreve Street

**23RD ANNUAL SUNSHINE FESTIVAL**

February 22nd, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
February 23rd, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

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For Directions Call: 941-769-1270  
https://mp3.gov/oh401

**NORTH PORT EVENTS**

Free Family Tree Maker Genealogy Event

A family tree make genealogy event will be presented by Mark Olsen, Family Tree Maker Ambassador and other team members. Meet Mark and the team from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 13, at the Shannon Staub Library, Room #159, 4675 Career Lane, North Port. They will talk about the latest and greatest features of Family Tree Maker software and answer questions.

To reserve your seat, contact: D’Ann at info@genil.org.
A look back at the Pop/Rock music of the ‘60s, the ‘70s and ‘80s

Top of Billboard Chart
1962 – “Peppermint Twist – Part I” by Joey Dee & the Starliters
1972 – “Let’s Stay Together” by Al Green
1982 – “Centerfold” by the J. Geils Band

Breakfast In America
Originally named “Daddy,” the rock band Supertramp was formed in London in 1969. Roger Hodgson (vocals, piano) and Rick Davies (vocals, keyboards) founded the group that also included John Helliwell (sax), Bob Siebenberg (drums) and Dougie Thomson (bass and brother of Scottish singer/songwriter Mi Thomson). In the early years, the band played progressive, art rock but eventually moved on with more of a radio-friendly pop sound. By the mid-1970s, Supertramp had several popular charted songs including “Bloody Well Right,” “Dreams” and “Give A Little Bit.” With tunes that featured saxophone and keyboards, the band became international stars with their sixth album release, the very successful “Breakfast In America,” in 1979. It included hits such as “Goodbye Stranger,” “The Logical One,” “Take the Long Way Home” and the title cut. The album won two Grammys and became their best-selling work. “Breakfast In America” also features a down Grammy-winning cover design depicting New York City through an airplane window. The band moved into the ‘80s with a few more popular singles, such as “It’s Raining Again” and “Cannonball,” and despite several personnel changes and internal conflicts, Supertramp continues to perform.

Last week, the trivia question asked: “These Eyes,” from 1969, was the first hit.
The Mummies, of course, have become FunkFest’s house band, having played every incarnation, so to speak. “They’re a household name,” Matt said. While the identities of the Mummies are secret, they are world-class musicians who bring with them a show with great thrust as well as music that wraps fans in a high-gelling dance trance. The Mummies’ advice regarding their 10th anniversary performance at FunkFest? “Bring protection, Punta Gorda,” Mummy Cass said. “Bring your protection for the sun during the day, and get to down at night.” I don’t know how many ways you can say it, Matt declared. “You got to come to this. You have to come. You just have to.”

For more information, go to www.funkfestpuntagorda.com.